

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a continuous [[metal]] cobalt removal in conjunction with a zinc preparation process, in which the [[metal]] cobalt removal is performed in one or more reactors, in conjunction with the [[reactor]] one or more reactors, [[the]] redox potential and [[the]] acidity and/or basicity are measured, and [[the]] process variables of the [[metal]] cobalt removal are adjusted [[towards the]] toward a desired direction based on the measurement results, wherein the [[measurements]] measurement of the redox potential [[are]] is performed [[from the]] on a sludge produced in the [[reactor]] one or more reactors and is performed outside the [[reactor vessel]] one or more reactors, and measurement of the acidity and/or basicity [[of the reactor solution is]] are performed on a reactor solution and are determined by means of [[the]] a BT value, and [[the]] a measuring instrument of the redox potential is purified at predetermined intervals, and based on the measurement results, introduction of zinc powder into the cobalt removal reactor is adjusted.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein [[the]] a solid matter content of the reactor solution is determined and adjusted to be suitable.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein based on the measurement results, the redox potential of the sludge, the acidity/basicity of the solution, the solid matter content of the solution and/or the temperature of the reactor are adjusted.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the [[metal]] cobalt removal is performed at least in two reactors connected in [[serial]] series.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument of the redox potential is arranged in conjunction with [[the]] a outlet pipe of the reactor or in conjunction with [[the]] a connecting pipe between the reactors.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument of acidity and/or basicity is arranged in conjunction with the [[reactor vessel]] one or more reactors.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measurement of the redox potential is performed using a measurement electrode.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument is regularly washed [[, preferably at intervals of 1-2 hours]].

11. (Previous Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein in conjunction with each reactor, measurements are performed that control the adjustment of the desired process variable, for each reactor specifically.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a continuous [[metal]] cobalt removal in conjunction with a zinc preparation process, in which the [[metal]] cobalt removal is performed in one or more reactors, the apparatus comprising at least one measuring instrument for measuring the redox potential and acidity and/or basicity in conjunction with the [[reactor]] one or more reactors, at least one adjustment device for adjusting [[the]] process variables of the [[metal]] cobalt removal [[towards the]] toward a the desired direction based on the measurement results, and at least one control device for forwarding the measurement results from the at least one measuring instrument to the at least one adjustment device, wherein the at least one measuring instrument of the redox potential is arranged outside the [[reactor vessel]] one or more reactors, and is placed in conjunction with [[the]] a pipe connected to the [[reactor]] one or more reactors, via which pipe [[the]] sludge produced in the [[reactor]] one or more reactors flows out, and apparatus comprises a determination device of BT value for determining the acidity and/or basicity of [[the]] a reactor solution, and the apparatus comprises purification means for purifying the at least one measuring instrument of the redox potential at predetermined intervals, and based on the measurement results, introduction of zinc powder into the cobalt removal reactor is adjusted.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the apparatus comprises a feeding device for introducing zinc powder into the [[metal removal reactor]] one or more reactors, and the feeding device is connected to the at least one adjustment and/or at least one control device.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the measuring instrument of acidity and/or basicity is arranged in conjunction with the [[reactor vessel]] one or more reactors.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the measuring instrument of the redox potential comprises at least one measurement electrode.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument is regularly washed at intervals of 1-2 hours.

**Support for Amendment:**

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of cancelled claims 3 and 9. Similarly, claim 12 is amended to include the features of cancelled claims 3 and 9.

Claims 5 and 13 are amended by changing the word “metal” to “cobalt” consistent with the amendments to claims 1 and 12.

Claims 3, 9, and 17 are cancelled.

New claim 18 is introduced based upon the phrase deleted from claim 10.

The remaining changes are made in order to provide antecedent or to correct grammar.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 9-16, and 18 are active in this application.